GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3538
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES BY PRIVATE OPERATORS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `DOT issues ultimatum to the basic operators` appearing in the `Hindustan Times` dated March 15, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether all private operators have not met their target of providing village public telephones (VPT);

(d) if so, the details of operators who have not achieved the half of the target;

(e) whether the Government propose to cancel the licences of these operators;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof; (g) whether the Government have given extension to some of the operators to meet the targets; and (h) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a)&(b) : Government is aware of the issues in the said news item. The operators` projections must have gone haywire due to their own failures. Government has taken appropriate steps to resolve their problems so as to facilitate viability of licensed telecom projects. The migration package offered to these operators did not envisage any dilution or obliteration of their committed performance obligations and the NTP 99 clearly stipulates that the new policy framework would be applicable to new/future licensees only.

(c) Yes, Sir. Five out of the six Licensees have not provided even a single VPT.The sixth Licensee M/s BTNL has provided only 12 VPTs so far.

(d) None, Sir.

(e)&(f) : Government is taking appropriate action under the provisions contained in Licence Agreements.

(g)&(h) It has been intimated to the operators that there shall neither be any dilution nor obliteration of their committed performance obligations in the licence agreements.